THE Trumpet

A monthly publication from the Kansas Office of the State Fire Marshal / December 2013

Inside this issue

HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY

PLUS...

- Tom McGaughey Award Winners
- Learn about Fire and Smoke Dampers
- Codes for Jails and Detention Centers
- Meet the NFIRS Program Manager
- 2013 Fireworks Injury Stats

From the Fire Marshal

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY, as the holiday standard goes. In many homes, this means a log on the fire, a trimmed tree, or a menorah glowing brightly. All these signs of the season bring feelings of comfort and joy to families, but they also bring an increased risk of fire in the home.

The winter months are peak times for home candle and heating fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Almost half of all home decoration fires are started by candles, while 38 percent of home heating fires started in fireplaces or chimneys. In this issue of *The Trumpet*, you'll find a bounty of tips for keeping homes safe throughout the holiday season.

As we gear up for the holidays and look back on 2013, I've been reflecting on the many changes that have taken place over this busy year. As State Fire Marshal, what stands out most in my mind is how thankful I am for the opportunity to work with so many dedicated professionals in both the OSFM and across the state.

The tremendous support and positive feedback we have received show that our constituents, collaborators, cooperators, partners, and other stakeholders value and appreciate our efforts as we continue to strive for success in every aspect of our work. I sincerely thank you for all that you do.

Enjoy a safe and happy holiday season!

Doug Jorgensen
Kansas State Fire Marshal

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Stay connected and get the latest information

OUR MISSION

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is dedicated to protecting the lives and property of the people of Kansas from the hazards of fire, explosion and hazardous materials by fostering a safe environment through education, inspection, enforcement, regulation, investigation, hazardous material incident mitigation, data collection, and by acting as a liaison to the Kansas Fire Service.

All of the efforts of the Office are designed to reduce the deaths, injuries and property losses of Kansans.

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THE TRUMPET

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SUBMISSIONS

For information on receiving the State Fire Marshal Trumpet or to submit your meeting notices, training announcements, articles, photos, or other information, please contact Mai Hester. Photos should be submitted as a .jpg or .tif attachment to an email. All materials are due by the 20th of the month prior to publication.

Elena Nuss retires after over 23 years with OSFM

Elena Nuss, center, received the prestigious Dr. Dennis Cooley Award of Excellence in 2012 from Safe Kids Kansas for her exceptional contributions in the field of childhood injury prevention.

ELENA NUSS RETIRES AFTER OVER 23 YEARS OF SERVICE *with the Office of the State Fire Marshal. While in her most recent position she was primarily charged with a program to prevent youths from becoming arsonists, Elena has held multiple positions in her many years, including the responsibility as Assistant Fire Marshal.*

You've worked for the OSFM how long?

Elena: I started March 12, 1990, twenty-three and half years ago.

Since you've done so many positions, what haven't you done?

Elena: I can proudly boast of doing practically everything from answering phones to teaching classes, addressing organizations and representing our agency at all kinds of local, state and national functions.

While I have never conducted an investigation or an inspection myself, I have had the privilege of being on-scene watching the hard work of our investigators, having the process, procedures and protocols explained by some of our finest.

I have also accompanied several inspectors on everything from a small childcare to a large university inspection and many points in between, and having the opportunity to watch an unbelievably complicated process made effortless by some of our most impressive inspectors.

What was cutting edge when you started?

Elena: When I first started, the office was just beginning to use computers. In fact, when you booted up your computer the DOS prompt came up.

This was a time when the agency secretaries still used typewriters. I cannot imagine transcribing fire investigation reports and interviews using a typewriter, but they did. Any mistakes required these ladies retype everything.

It was in these early years we purchased bag phones for our field staff. Office staff could also purchase a personal bag phone for $5 from the same company. These first mobile phones were huge, about the size of a shoe box, and you had to plug them into the cigarette lighter to use them.

BY THE NUMBERS

There were 81 on-duty firefighter fatalities as a result of incidents that occurred last year. A record low number of firefighter deaths were caused by heart attacks (39), but deaths caused by vehicle crashes were back up with 18 firefighters killed as the result of 14 accidents – six involving POVs, six involving apparatus, and six from two incidents involving aircraft.

Sixty percent of home fire deaths resulted from fires in which no smoke alarms were present or in which smoke alarms were present but did not operate.

Source: NFPA

Eighty-eight percent of university housing fires are cooking fires.

Source: National Data Fire Center

Elena Nuss retires after over 23 years with OSFM (cont.)

What do you consider your biggest accomplishment, that bright shining moment in your career?

Elena: I have been incredibly fortunate to have lots of shining moments because of all the outstanding people I have had the opportunity to meet and work with, not only in Kansas but across this country. Probably the most rewarding times were when I served as Assistant State Fire Marshal, or Chief Deputy as it is called today, under State Fire Marshal Gale Haag. This was a very trying time because SFM Haag was battling an aggressive cancer, but it was also a rewarding time.

I was lucky to have the support of my husband who had to fend for himself, calling me before he went to bed or sitting up waiting on me if I was still on the road or still at the office. He stood by me during those 15 hour days, all the times when I gave up family time, weekends and vacations bringing work home and spreading it all over the bed to catch up on reading practically every night.

I had the awesome privilege of serving on the National Fire Information Council as the state rep, on the Board of Directors and as Treasurer. I was honored to have worked with Safe Kids Kansas for nearly 20 years, serving as the Chairperson of the Board the year Safe Kids Kansas was named Coalition of the Year, selected out of 315 coalitions from 16 countries, as we worked together to reduce the unintentional injuries of Kansas children.

Nuss, in red jacket, speaking at a Fire Marshal's reunion in 2000.

I have presented to and bragged about our agency to many diverse groups from the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM), the Kansas State Firefighters Association (KSFFA) the numerous City and County Commission meetings and the folks in Girard as Grand Marshal in their parade.

Tell us about what you've been doing lately.

Elena: In these last few years I have had the opportunity to concentrate on the area where my passion lies, education. I have been able to work more actively with the Fire Education Association of Kansas (FEAK) as a member, secretary and treasurer. I got to be a part of the making of the Fire and Burn Safety Alliance of South Central Kansas and Y-FIRE Sedgwick County. And I also got to work with the Johnson County Fire and Burn Committee on Y-FIT, the newly forming Flint Hills Regional Juvenile Firesetter Intervention group and so much more. I got to be part of the 17-year smoke detector project with KDHE from writing letters of support to traveling across the state doing on-site visits to witness many outstanding local efforts. These have been the shining moments in my career, like the stars in the night sky, lots of good people working and helping each other and I got to part of lots of it. I am the lucky one.

Any "last words" before you ride off into retirement?

Elena: I would just like to see us continue forward progress in keeping people safe from fires and burns. Keep educating, enforcing and engineering solutions because no one should ever die or be injured in a fire.

Thank you to everyone who has been in touch. Everything I could ever have hoped for happened when I announced my retirement, I have received over 200 emails from all over Kansas and the United States wishing me well, recalling memories, many amazing notes of thanks for helping with projects, to simply answering the phone or returning the call.

I have been honored by some of the most amazing people from the most amazing organizations. I have gotten phone calls from as far away Washington, DC and Burbank, California wishing me well.

In the end, I have been very lucky. My husband, Eldon and I are looking forward to retirement, and the freedom, flexibility and stress-free time we hope to have together. ■

FAREWELL

Kevin Doel

Fire Marshal Doug Jorgensen bids farewell to Kevin Doel, former Public Information Officer.

Adam Lesperance

Thank you to Adam, who served as a Fire Prevention Inspector for the OSFM for nearly two years.

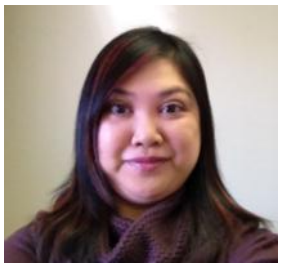
NEW FACES

WELCOME **DEAUN BAILEY**, FIRE INVESTIGATOR

De joins us after working the last 14 years at the Pottawatomie County Sheriff's Office. Prior to that, she was at the Riley County Police Department for almost four years.

During tornado season, De enjoys chasing storms with her son. He will graduate from KU (go, Jayhawks!) in May with a degree in Atmospheric Science.

MAI HESTER JOINS THE OSFM AS THE NEW PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER



Welcome to Mai Hester who comes to us with over 10 years of experience in public relations and communications.

Her most recent position was at the University of Kansas, where she received her undergraduate degrees in strategic communications and communication studies, and masters in marketing communications.

FAREWELL

Wishing you all the best

JOHN HARRISON, FIRE INVESTIGATOR

John retired in November after 12 years with the OSFM. He was assigned to the southeast area of the state and was the agency's polygraph examiner for the last seven years. Previously, John served 6 years in the Army Reserve and worked at the Crawford County Sheriff's Office for 21 years in various positions, including deputy sheriff and Lieutenant of Detectives.

John will be pursuing other adventures during retirement, as well as continuing his love for cross-country cycling. He will also be spending time with his wife and family.

RON OLDRIDGE, FIRE INVESTIGATOR

Rod retired in December after 24 years working with the OSFM. He was assigned to the north central area of the state and was a polygraph examiner and firearms instructor during his long career. Prior to coming to the OSFM, Rod worked 20 years for the Wellington Police Department where he began as a patrolman and worked his way up to Chief of Police.

Rod will be spending time with his family and helping his wife in her store in downtown Salina. Rod said he knows he leaves the OSFM better then when he started.

DAN THOMPSON,
HAZMAT DIVISION CHIEF

After 13 years of leading the OSFM Haz-Mat division, Dan retired in September. Prior to joining the OSFM, Dan served 30 years with the Ottumwa, Iowa Fire Department. He held positions such as firefighter, training officer, department chief, and County Emergency Management Coordinator.

Dan looks forward to spending more time with his family, especially his three grandchildren.

ACCOLADES

2013 Tom McGaughey Award

Exemplifying bravery and courage beyond the call of duty.

On the evening of Thursday, November 21, 1968 a fire alarm was received from the Yingling Chevrolet Company of Wichita, Kansas. While fighting the fire, the roof collapsed and Fire Chief Tom McGaughey, Chief Fire Inspector M.O. Wells, firefighters Dale J. Mishler and Jimmy Lee Austin were trapped under tons of burning debris and twisted steel.

In memory of Chief Tom McGaughey, who died during the line of duty in November 1968, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs and the Kansas State Firefighters Association adopted the Tom McGaughey Fire Service Award to be presented to the fire department and the firefighter or firefighters whose bravery and courage went above and beyond the call of duty.

Chief Tom McGaughey

Congratulations to Wichita's Bravest!

On April 12, 2013, members of the Wichita Fire Department were dispatched to the report of a house fire with persons trapped inside. Engine 10 quickly arrived to the home where they saw heavy smoke and flames coming out of the two bedroom windows.

Acting Captain Mike North was met in the front yard by family members yelling their child was inside. After being advised of the last known location of the child, Acting Captain North and Firefighter Justin Bruster entered the structure with a hose line to initiate an aggressive fire attack and primary search. They were followed by Lieutenant Ignacio Ayala and Firefighter John Hattrup. The blaze was quickly extinguished with the aid of Firefighter Jeremiah Toothaker.

Lieutenant Ayala located the limp body of an unresponsive 6-year-old girl in a bedroom. He rushed the child to a waiting ambulance where she was evaluated with serious injury and transported to a local hospital. The child is alive today as result of the quick, conscientious and courageous actions from fire crews assigned to Firehouse 10. ■

Fire Marshal Doug Jorgensen presents the 2013 Tom McGaughey Award to Acting Captain Mike North, Lieutenant Ignacio Ayala, Firefighter Justin Bruster, Firefighter John Hattrup, and Firefighter Jeremiah Toothaker for meritorious actions taken at a house fire on April 12, 2013.

PREVENTION

Fire and Smoke Dampers

Defining the difference and knowing the requirements

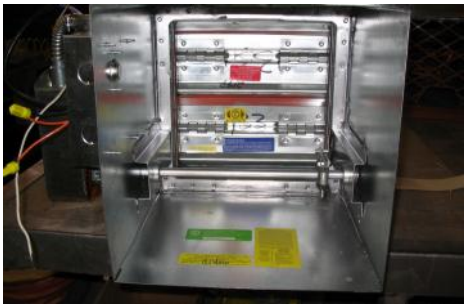
By Larry W. Laubhan, CFPS
Senior Code Consultant, Poole Fire Protection, Inc.

A BUILDING CODE ISSUE AND A FIRE PROTECTION FEATURE, which is often not readily understood or may be misconstrued, is the requirement for fire or smoke dampers installed in building heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. In a specific application, fire dampers, smoke dampers, combination fire and smoke dampers and/or even ceiling radiation fire dampers may be required by the governing code as required by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), whether municipality, state, federal, or other authority.

In the state of Kansas, the major national standard for new construction is the International Building Code (IBC). Design criteria for new construction may also include compliance with the National Fire Protection Association, (NFPA) 101, Life Safety Code. Existing facilities are required to meet the International Fire Code (IFC), 2006 Edition in accordance with the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Most federal facilities and facilities under the purview the Centers for Medicare/ Medicaid Services (CMS) require compliance with NFPA 101 as well.

NFPA 101 does not specifically define what fire dampers or smoke dampers are; however, Section, 9.2.1, references NFPA 90A, Standard for the Installation of Air-Conditioning and Ventilation Systems, which defines a smoke damper as a device within an air-distribution system to control the movement of smoke. It goes on to define a fire damper as a device installed in an air distribution system designed to close automatically upon detection of heat, to interrupt migratory air flows, and to restrict the passage of flame.

The International Mechanical Code, (IMC) a companion of the IBC, defines a fire damper as a listed device installed in ducts and air transfer openings design to close automatically upon detection of heat and to restrict the passage of flame, and the IMC defines smoke damper as a listed device installed in ducts and air transfer openings designed to resist the passage of smoke. The term listed refers to equipment or materials which have successfully passed the testing criteria of a recognized testing organization such as Underwriters Laboratory or Factory Mutual as example. The definition in accordance with the IBC and NFPA of the two types of dampers is similar in nature and function.



In addition, two other types of dampers may be required in HVAC systems regulated by the IBC and NFPA 101; combination fire/smoke dampers and ceiling radiation fire dampers. The IMC defines a combination fire and smoke damper as a listed device installed in ducts and air transfer openings designed to close automatically upon the detection of heat and resist the passage of flame and smoke. A combination fire/smoke damper device meets both the fire damper and the smoke damper requirements.

A ceiling radiation damper is a listed device installed in a ceiling membrane of a fire-resistance-rated floor/ceiling assembly to limit automatically the radiative heat transfer through an air inlet/outlet opening in accordance with IMC. According to NFPA 90A, a ceiling radiation fire damper is a device installed to limit radiant heat transfer through an air outlet or air inlet opening in the ceiling of a floor or roof-ceiling assembly having not less than a 1-hour fire-resistance rating.

The installation of a ceiling radiation fire damper depends on the Code specific occupancy type and whether construction of a fire-resistive rated ceiling assembly is required. Residential Group R occupancies in accordance with the IBC and New Hotels and Dormitories occupancies in accordance with NFPA 101, require resident sleeping rooms and resident sleeping suites to be separated from other rooms and suites by a minimum ½-hour fire resistance rated construction. This would include rated ceiling/ floor assemblies thus the requirement for ceiling radiation fire dampers when conveyance of conditioned air penetrates the ceiling.

Both smoke and fire damper types must meet the rigorous testing criteria of nationally recognized and certified testing laboratories and installed in accordance with the Code and to manufacturer specifications. A transfer opening may be a louvered opening in a wall for conveyance of condition air to

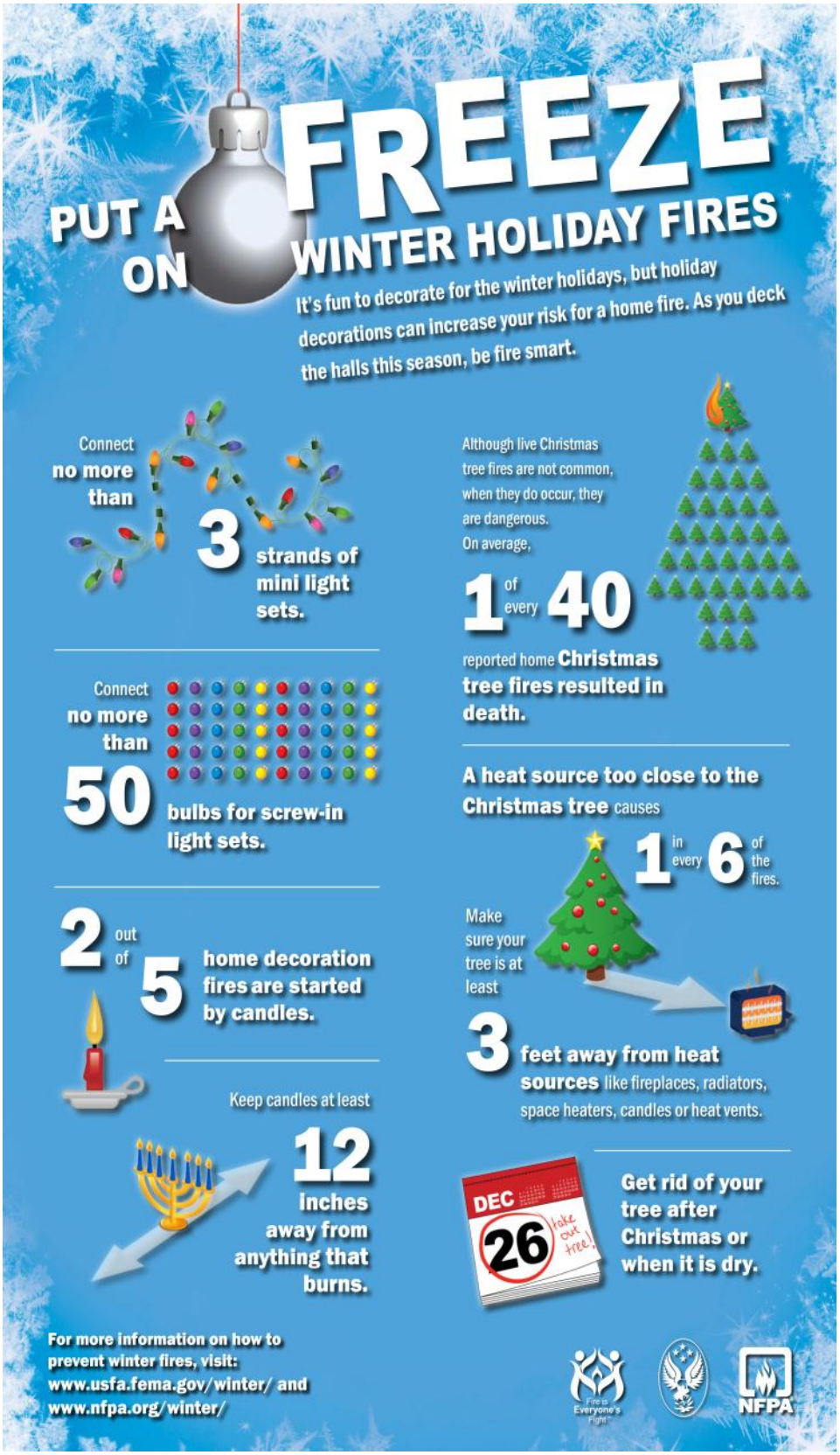
Fire and Smoke Dampers (cont.)

an area or the passage of return air to the mechanical system.

A fire damper assembly is a mechanical unit installed in a HVAC duct system equipped with louvers or a vertical sliding 'guillotine' which are in the normally open position to allow for the conditioning of the area or building air. In an emergency condition where upon the presence excessive heat is detected, the unit will automatically close upon actuated by a heat-release element commonly known as a fusible link. These fusible links melt when the temperature rises to 165° Fahrenheit but in some circumstances may be set to release up to 212° Fahrenheit.

Typically, smoke dampers are operated by smoke detectors in the ductwork or from area detection that will close the smoke damper when smoke is detected. Smoke detectors often are hard wired to a central fire alarm panel in which the fire alarm control panel will transmit a signal to a relay module which will cause the smoke damper to close. The closure of the smoke dampers are initiated by an actuator – the actuator is either electric or pneumatic.

Understanding the types of dampers and proper application of the requirements for dampers is not an easy task. There are provisions in the code which even delete the use of dampers in some instances when the building is provided with a supervised automatic fire sprinkler system. ■



PREVENTION

Jails and Detention Centers

By Mike Wikle

THE PURPOSE OF A STRUCTURE is to prevent the occupants from leaving the building at any time. Life safety in the event of a fire is to address in a manner different from most other buildings. The means of egress must provide for reasonable level of safety for inmates, staff and the general public.

The 2006 edition of the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code lists your requirements in Chapters 22 for new detention, and chapter 23 for existing. Section 22.1.1.2.2 explains: Because of the safety of all occupants in detention and correctional facilities cannot be adequately ensured solely by dependence on evacuation of the building, their protection from fire shall be provided by appropriate arrangement of facility; adequate, trained staff, and development of operating, security and maintenance procedures compose of the following:

1. Design, construction, and compartmentation.
2. Provision for detection, alarm and extinguishment.
3. Fire Prevention and planning, training, and drilling programs for the isolation of fire and the transfer of occupants to an area of refuge, for full evacuation of the building, or for the protection of occupants in place.
4. Provisions of security to the degree necessary for the safety of the public and occupants of a facility.

This measure of life safety is accomplished by a combination of staff knowledge and the selection of appropriate locking devices and controls. Section 22.1.2.2.1 explains: Where security operations necessitate the locking of required means of egress, staff in the building shall be provided with a means for supervised release of occupants during all times of use. Section 22.1.2.2.2 explains: where security operations necessitate the locking of required means of egress, the following shall apply: (1) Detention hardware meeting the requirements of ASTM 1577, the standard test method for Detention Locks for swinging doors, shall be provided on swinging doors with in the means of egress. i.e. have a preventive maintenance program in place. (2) Sliding doors within the means of egress shall be designed and engineered for detention and correctional use, and lock cylinders shall also meet ASTM 1577.

Now, since there are five different various security levels of correctional facilities, egress requirements are divided into the following groups defined as:

22.1.4.1.1 Condition I- Free Egress allows free movement from sleeping areas to the exterior.

22.1.4.1.2 Condition II Zoned Egress allows free movement from one smoke compartment to another area.

22.1.4.1.3 Condition III Zoned Impeded Egress permits free movement within individual smoke compartments with egress impeded by remote controlled release of means of egress doors.

22.1.4.1.4 Condition IV Impeded Egress where movement is restricted in the occupied space and has a remote controlled release.

22.1.4.1.5 Condition V is the highest level allowing staff controlled manual releasing at each sleeping room door.

Section 22.2.7 Discharge from exits tell us explains that for use conditions that allows egress to the exterior, exits are permitted to discharge into a fenced or walled courtyard, in order for this to happen you will need to also meet section 22.2.7.2 Enclosed court yards or courts, where occupants shall have 15 Sq. foot, plus get a distance of 50 ft. from the building.

Well, we just completed a quick walk through of the Life Safety Code, now let's jog your memory.

1. What chapters in the NFPA 101 covers this type of occupancy today?
2. Name the elements of a correctional facility that provides adequate safety for detention and correctional facilities?
3. Which condition allows free egress to an exterior in a fire emergency?

INVESTIGATIONS

Meet Sara Foster, NFIRS Program Manager

SARA FOSTER
NFIRS Program Manager

MY NAME IS SARA FOSTER and I am the new state program manager for NFIRS at the Office of the State Fire Marshal. I started October 14 and have already talked to many of you. Immediate changes include the acceptance of paper NFIRS reports if your department does not have a way of submitting electronically. Please let me know if you are one of these departments as I am in the process of updating the FDID listing and would appreciate any changes be sent to me.

If your department is behind on submissions please have all 2013 reports submitted by January 20th, 2014. Any missing 2012 reports should also be submitted. Submission of reports is required by state statute. Contact me if you need password/account lockout help for the NFIRS Federal Client Tools (Data Entry Tool or DEBI) available through nfirs.fema.gov. Please continue to email submissions to KFIRS@ksfm.ks.gov if your department uses third-party software.

If your department does not have any runs for a particular month a No Activity Report should be submitted. If your department uses third-party software, simply email the KFIRS@ksfm.ks.gov address and state which months your department did not make any runs. If your department utilizes the Federal Client Tool, open a new incident and enter the incident number as "0". Add a date of incident as the last day of the month you didn't have any runs. For example, if you had no runs in October, enter 10/31/2013 as the Incident date. Check the box labeled "No Activity" and then save the report. Your No Activity Report is now complete. By entering a No Activity Report, departments utilizing the Federal Client Tool can ensure their accounts do not become inactive. You will still need to change your password every 60 days.

Contact me at Sara.Foster@ksfm.ks.gov or 785-296-4294 with questions. I look forward to working with you all!

SAFETY

Wood Fireplace: 9 Tips for Safety and Efficiency

READY FOR THE COLDER MONTHS? You will be if you follow these simple guidelines to keep your wood fireplace burning brightly and safely:

1. Only burn dry, cured wood logs that have been split, stacked, and dried for eight to 12 months. Cover your log pile on top, but leave the sides open for air flow.
2. Burn firewood and only firewood! Crates, lumber, construction scraps, painted wood, or other treated wood releases chemicals into your home, compromising air quality. Log starters are fine for getting your wood fireplace going, but they burn very hot; generally only use one at a time.
3. Close the damper when not using your wood fireplace to prevent warm indoor air—and the dollars you're spending to heat it—from rushing up the chimney.
4. Keep bi-fold glass doors open when burning a fire to allow heat to get into the room. On a factory-built, prefab wood fireplace with a circulating fan, keep doors closed to prevent unnecessary heat loss.
5. Have a chimney cap installed to prevent objects, rain, and snow from falling into your chimney, and to reduce downdrafts. Caps have side vents so smoke escapes.
6. Replace a poorly sealing damper to prevent heat loss. A top-mounted damper that also functions as a rain cap provides a tighter closure than a traditional damper for your wood fireplace.
7. Install carbon monoxide detectors and smoke detectors in your house near your wood fireplace and in bedroom areas.
8. Get your chimney cleaned twice a year if you burn more than three cords of wood annually.
9. To burn a fire safely, build it slowly, adding more wood as it heats. Keep the damper of your wood fireplace completely open to increase draw in the early stages. Burn the fire hot, at least occasionally—with the damper all the way open to help prevent smoke from lingering in the fireplace and creosote from developing.

Source: http://www.houselogic.com/home-advice/fireplaces-chimneys/wood-fireplace-9-tips-safety-and-efficiency/#.

2013 Fireworks Injury Statistics

BY TYPE OF FIREWORKS	
Firecrackers	25
Bottle rocket	4
Sparkler	12
Roman candle	12
Public fireworks display	1
Other shooting type	23
Other type firework	40
Unknown	16
TOTAL	**133**

Thirty-seven percent of Kansas hospitals reported a total of 133 injuries. Participating hospitals reported an average of 2.75 injury reports per hospital, down from an average of 3 injury reports per hospital in 2012.

Forty-seven percent of the injuries occurred on July 4, followed by 13% of the total injuries occurring on July 3, 12% occurring on July 5, and 4% occurring on July 1, July 2, and July 6, respectively. The remaining injuries are scattered between April 7 and October 21.

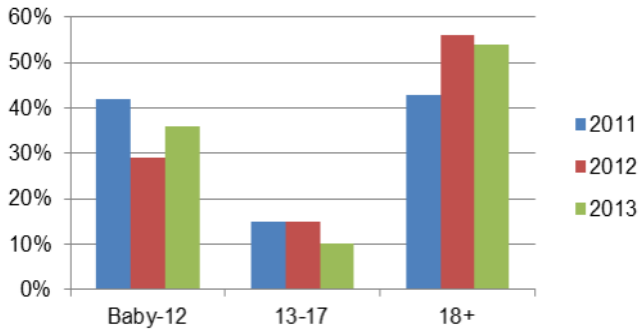
Injuries to the hand were most common, totaling 49% of all the injuries. Five hospitals reported traumatic amputation of one or more fingers, including one victim that suffered de-gloving with loss of 4 fingertips. Injuries to the eyes, head, and neck comprised 24% of injuries. Remaining injuries were sustained to the trunk, back, arms, legs, feet, and other body parts.

BY DISPOSITION	
Refused treatment	1
Treated and released	110
Admitted for observation	0
Admitted for treatment	9
Died	0
Transfer to burn center	5
Other	7
Unknown	2
TOTAL	**133**

BY INJURY TYPE	
Burns/Asphyxia	2
Burns only	80
Asphyxia only	0
Wound/Cut/Bleeding	15
Dislocation/Fracture	3
Complaint of pain	1
Other injury	28
Unknown	4
TOTAL	**133**

BY SEX	
Males	105
Females	26
Not listed	2
TOTAL	**133**

Trending % of Total Injured by Age Group



BY AGE			
Age	**Injuries**		
Baby	0	10	3
1	3	11	6
2	0	12	3
3	6	13	4
4	1	14	2
5	3	15	3
6	3	16	2
7	7	17	3
8	10	18	5
9	2	Over 18	66
		TOTAL	**133**

SAFETY

Celebrate the Season with Fire Safety Tips

WINTER, FOR MANY PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, means colder weather, get-togethers, and spending more time indoors. Making our homes comfortable and inviting often involves making it warmer and adding decorations.

Alternative heating sources, candles, electrical equipment, cooking and smoking materials all create a risk of fire.

As the holidays approach, we're increasingly excited about adorning our homes with traditional Christmas trees, Menorahs, ornaments and garlands. Holiday decorations, as beautiful as they are, can also be a home fire hazard. Each year fire departments respond to roughly 260 structure fires caused by Christmas trees. As we enter this holiday season, don't let a tragic fire mar your spirits or, even worse, take a life.

Christmas Trees

- Look for flame-resistant artificial trees. Keep tree at least three feet away from heat sources.
- Ensure your natural tree is kept fresh in water throughout its recommended two-week life.

Holiday Lights

- Inspect holiday lights before using for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, or broken sockets.
- Only use lights that have been tested and labeled by a recognized testing laboratory.
- Avoid overloading! Do not link more than three strands.
- Unplug your decorative lights when you leave.

Candle Safety

The winter holiday season is a peak time for candle use. Candle fires in December increase by more than 50% compared to other months. Statistics provided by the National Fire Protection Association reveal that a candle fire in the home is reported to a fire department every 30 minutes. If you do burn candles, please follow these important fire safety tips:

- Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Make sure candles are in stable bases and have plenty of space around them. Place them where they cannot be easily knocked down or turned over.

Flashlights or battery-powered lamps should be used during a power outage (not candles), keep fresh batteries handy to use.

Smoke Alarms

Working smoke alarms should be a priority at anytime of the year. Review your home escape plan.

Cooking & Heating Safety

Pay particular attention while cooking. Check stoves and other appliances before going to bed or leaving your home to make sure that such devices are completely turned "off". Never use the oven or stovetop to heat a home; carbon monoxide gas can kill. Portable heaters need space and to be secure.

Source: www.live-safe.org/email/docs/LiveFireSafe-DecNewsletter-112112.pdf

Support the Fallen Firefighter Memorial

In 2001, legislation was signed that authorized the construction of a memorial to be built on the Capitol grounds in Topeka to honor Kansas firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

A scaled replica can be viewed at the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The OSFM also transports the replica to fire service events across the state.

If you would like to contribute towards the construction of the Kansas Fallen Firefighters Memorial, please send your tax deductible donation to:

Firefighters Memorial Fund
Attn: Eldred Wenger
Kansas Department of Administration, DFM
900 SW Jackson St., Room 600
Topeka, KS 66612